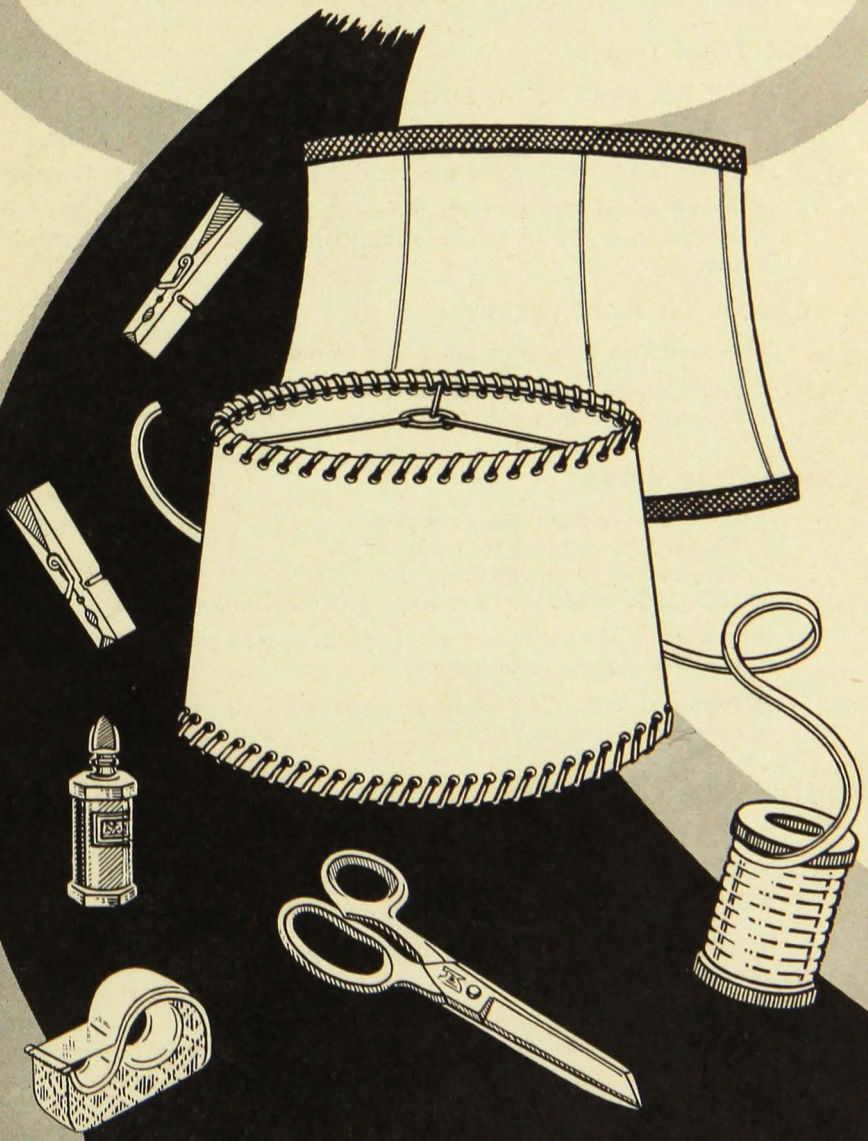


MN 2000  
EB-268  
c.2

# Lampshades

## YOU CAN MAKE



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*Agricultural Extension Service*  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# Make Your Home Lighting Effective

## CHECK YOUR LAMPS

### CHOOSE THE LAMP FOR THE PURPOSE:

- Floor lamps for general illumination—especially in large rooms.
- Table lamps for directed use such as reading, writing, or sewing.
- Pin-up lamps with reflector bowls for places above beds, beside mirrors, and in corners where table or floor lamps are difficult to use.

### CHOOSE THE RIGHT HEIGHT:

- A short floor lamp is usually better than a tall one.
- Table lamps should be tall enough and the shade should be flared to spread light over area to be lighted.

## CHECK YOUR BULBS

- Have them of adequate wattage—  
100- or 150-watt bulb for table lamps  
75-watt bulb for pin-up lamps  
100-, 200-, or 300-watt three-way bulb for floor lamps
- It is more efficient to use one large bulb than several small ones that will total the same wattage.
- Paying a little more for large bulbs will be much cheaper than correcting eyestrain by glasses.

## CHECK YOUR CARE OF LAMPS

- DUST bulbs, reflecting bowls, and shades regularly.
- WASH bulbs and reflecting bowls often.
- DISCARD bulbs that have become dark. They waste light.
- REFLECT light from your lamps by keeping ceilings and insides of lampshades in light colors.

# Lampshades You Can Make

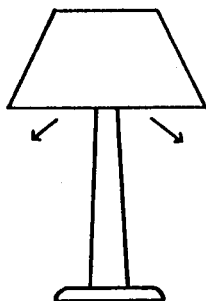
CHARLOTTE KIRCHNER

Lampshades have two purposes—first, to direct and spread out light, and second, to provide a decorative accent in a room. Because of this dual purpose, you should take care in choosing shape, size, color, and material.

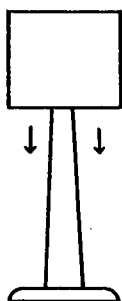
**THE NUMBER ONE JOB OF A LAMPSHADE** is to direct and spread out light.

**BE SURE THAT . . .**

- the shade is broad enough at its base to spread light over a wide area. The bottom diameter of a shade should be a little greater than the height of the lamp base, not including the fixture.

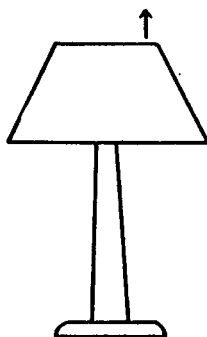


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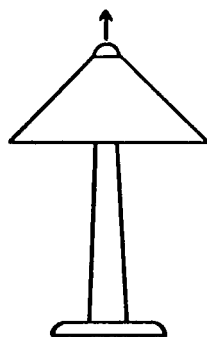


**NOT THIS**

- the top of the shade is wide enough to direct about a third of the light upward to contribute to the general illumination of the room.



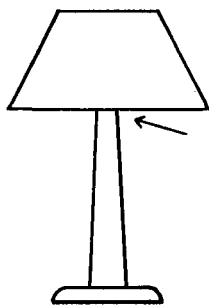
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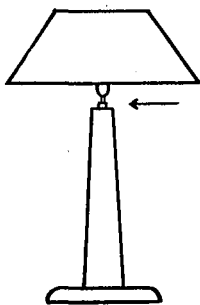
**NOT THIS**

- the covering of the lampshade is dense enough so you cannot see the bulb and do not feel a glare.
- lampshades that have dark covers have white or very light linings to reflect all possible light. For a lining choose:
  - White (about 85 per cent reflection)
  - Ivory (about 75 per cent reflection)

- the lampshade is deep enough to cover both the bulb and the fixture. The depth of the shade should be approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the total height of the base and shade together.

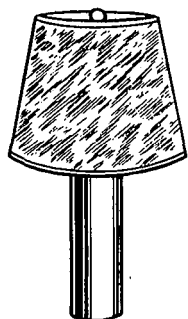


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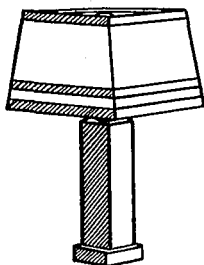
NOT THIS

**THE NUMBER TWO JOB OF A LAMPSHADE** is to add to the attractiveness of a room. From this standpoint four things are important.



GOOD

- THE STYLE OF THE SHADE** should be simple. Round and columnar bases usually look best with round, oval, or conical lampshades. Square or rectangular



GOOD



POOR

shades should be used with bases with straight lines. Pagoda and other distorted shapes are apt to make the shades too prominent in the average room.

- THE COLOR OF THE SHADE** should fit into the general color plan of the room. As a rule soft, light colors—ivory, yellow, peach—are a good choice for any room, because they blend into almost any color scheme. Where dark, strong colors are used, they should repeat and accent other colors in the room. A white shade is apt to be too definite in a room unless there is much white used elsewhere in the furnishings.
- THE COVERING FOR THE SHADE** may come from various materials. Your choice should depend on whether the room in which the shade is to be used is an all-purpose room (like the living room) or a special-purpose room (such as a bedroom or recreation room). Lampshade coverings should live in a friendly fashion with such other furnishings as curtains, draperies, upholstery, rugs, and furniture woods. The materials in the shade should be in harmony with the material used in the base of the lamp. Silk shades fit well on glass, china, and some fine metal lamps. Parchment and plastic shades are well adapted to wood and heavy metal lamps. The informal shade of gingham fits in with a converted bottle or a novelty lamp. Plain colors are best when the base is decorated. Patterned shades may better be used on plain bases. Select your lampshade materials from among these:

1. Cotton and linen dress fabrics
2. Rayon and silk shantung
3. Light-weight drapery fabrics
4. Glazed and unglazed chintzes

5. Plastics
6. Parchment and parchment-like paper

Select materials that do not stretch or fray badly.

- **THE DECORATION FOR THE SHADE** should be simple. It is well to remember that "function comes

before frills." Use a bias fold of the shade material as a tailored finish for fabric shades. Novelty braids, which are easily found, can be used to add color and interest to fabric shades. Leather or plastic lacing, which comes in a variety of colors, is suitable for plastic and parchment shades.

## To Make A Fabric-Covered, Fabric-Lined Shade

**GOOD MATERIALS TO USE FOR THE COVER** include linen, rayon in a linen-like weave, shantung, percale, chambray, gingham, dotted swiss, taffeta, chintz, and unbleached muslin.

**THE LINING** may be made of muslin, sateen, or rayon suit lining.

**THE AMOUNT** you will need depends on the shape and size of the shade. Roughly the following size frames require the indicated yardage:

Frame diameter	Yardage
7-10 inch	$\frac{1}{2}$ yard
11-13 inch	$\frac{3}{4}$ yard
14-16 inch	1 yard
17-19 inch	$1\frac{1}{4}$ yard

Buy the same amount of material for cover and lining.

**THE TRIMMING** will depend on the size of the frame. Measure the distances around the top and around the bottom. Combine these measurements to find the total length of trimming needed.

**EQUIP YOURSELF** with the following:

1. A frame
2. Tape to wind rings (cotton twill one-half inch wide)
3. Adhesive transparent tape
4. Colorless nail polish
5. Clamp clothespins (about two dozen)
6. Shears
7. Pins
8. Needles

9. Thread (mercerized)

✓ To match cover

✓ To match lining

✓ To sew cover and lining to frame (either heavy-duty mercerized or number 40 white thread)

10. Thimble

11. Ruler and tapeline

### PROCEED—Step by Step

If the frame has been used before . . . .

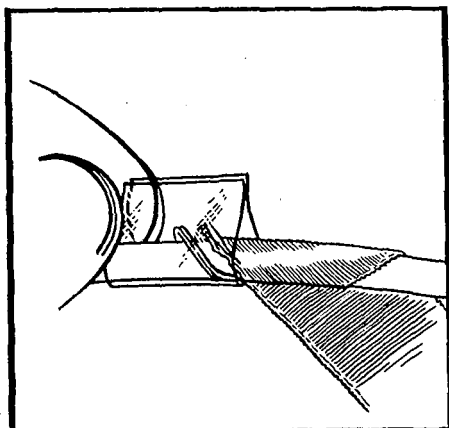
- Carefully remove the old cover and save for the pattern.

- Be sure the frame is in shape.

- Give the frame a coat of flat white paint and let it dry thoroughly.

Wind the top and bottom rings with cotton twill tape.

1. Place the tape against the ring on a slant. Secure with adhesive transparent tape.



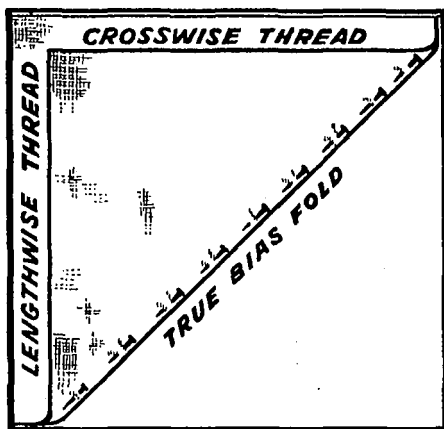
2. Overlap the edges of the twill tape for half the width of the tape.
3. If there are crosswires, wind around each one in a figure eight.
4. When the ring is covered, cut the end of the tape, turn it under, and sew it.

**FIT THE COVER.** This cover has two joining seams, so you can use one half as a pattern for the other half and for the lining.

1. Measure the center on the top and bottom rings on one side between two ribs.

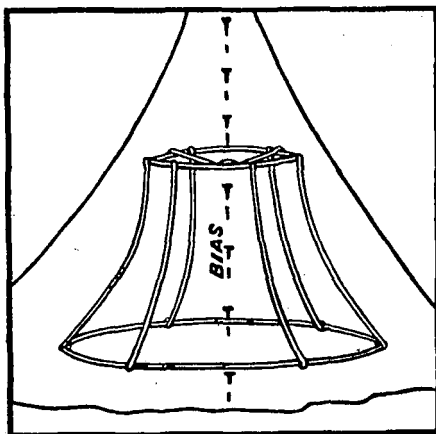
2. Mark with pencil on the inside.

3. Lay the covering on the table right side up and find a true bias by folding one corner so that one selvedge is on a crosswise thread and the other on a lengthwise thread. Mark this bias line with pins or thread. This line will be at the center of the shade.



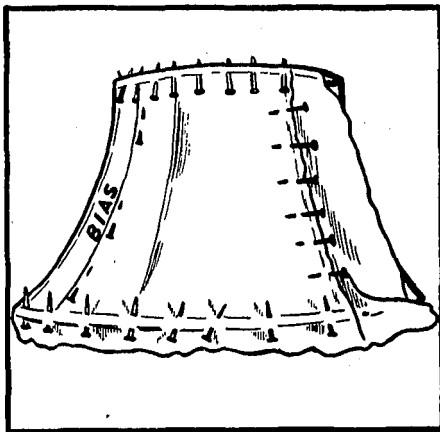
4. Lay your material on the frame wrong side out with the bias line on the center markings. Raise the material until one inch is beyond each rib where the seam will be. For a drum shade two seams will be enough. For a more complicated shade you may need a seam at each rib.

5. Pin at the center marking on both the top and bottom rings.



6. Adjust the cover so it lies flat on the frame and pin at the seam lines. Caution: Do not pull too tightly or the material will cup.

7. Place pins at one-inch intervals down each seam line and around the top and bottom rings, making sure the material lies smooth and close to the frame.



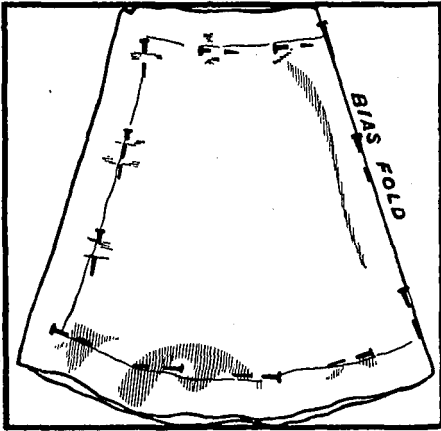
8. Place a few pins two inches beyond the seam line and the rings to serve as a cutting guide.

9. Trim on the pin line.

10. Mark the seam and ring lines lightly with pencil.

11. Remove this section of the cover. Fold it in half and pin the two sides together. Check the height—making sure it is the same throughout. Adjust and re-mark if necessary.

12. Trim all four sides one inch beyond the pencil lines.



### MAKE THE COVER

1. Using the fitted section as a pattern, cut the other half of the cover and both halves of the lining, making sure the centers of each section are on the true bias. Mark all sections as in the pattern.

2. Baste the side seams of the cover in  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch from the marking.

3. Try the cover on right side out. All pencil lines should lie along the rings.

4. Stitch each of the side seams over a strip of firm paper. Tear off the paper. Trim the seam to  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. Press to one side.

5. Paint the edges of the side seams with colorless nail polish. Be careful! Use a small amount of polish and paint only the edges and the seam.

6. Repin the cover to the frame.

7. Using an overcasting stitch and working from the outside of the shade, sew the cover first to the bottom ring, then to the top ring. Trim edges level with the outside of the rings.

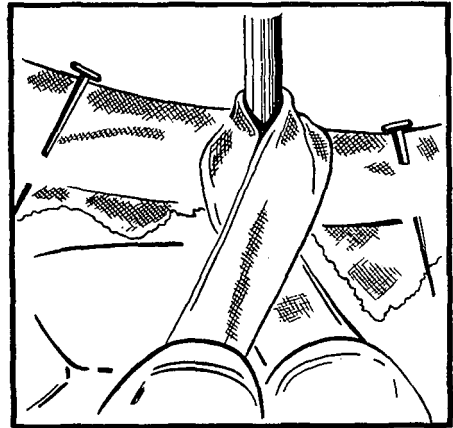
8. Paint the edges with colorless nail polish to prevent fraying.

**CONSTRUCT THE LINING** exactly as you made the cover.

1. Place the lining right side out on the inside of the frame. Fit it carefully so that the seams of the lining and cover fall in the same line and pin the lining in place on the outside of the frame.

2. Slash the lining to fit around the crosswires of the frame at the top of the shade.

3. Cut a bias strip 1" x 3" for each crosswire on the frame. Fold this bias strip so that the raw edges meet in the center of the strip.



4. Lay a folded bias strip around each crosswire, crossing the ends to the outside of the shade.

5. Fold the edges of the lining neatly around the covered crosswires. Pin both the lining and the bias to the frame on the outside of the ring.

6. Sew the lining to the frame on the outside of the top and bottom rings, using an overcast stitch.

7. Trim the edges of the lining and paint them with colorless polish.

**PIN THE TRIMMING** in place and tack it around both rings and your lampshade is ready for use.

# To Make A Fabric-Covered, Paper-Lined Shade

**MATERIALS FOR THIS TYPE OF SHADE** may be linen, rayon-like linen, cotton or rayon dress fabrics, chintz, burlap, theatrical gauze, and light-weight drapery materials of interesting texture. Get a medium-weight white or ivory paper for a lining. Parchment-like paper may be used. Get the 22" x 28" size or the 25" x 38" size.

Size of lower shade ring	Size of sheet	Number of sheets
7-10 inches	22 x 28	1
11-13 inches	22 x 28	1
14 inches and over	22 x 28	2

**EQUIP YOURSELF** with the following:

1. Lampshade rings. If these come from a used shade remove the old covering carefully from the rings and save for the pattern.

2. Straight rayon tape (to wind rings). It should be  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide for this shade.

3. Adhesive transparent tape

4. Colorless nail polish

5. Household cement or airplane glue with applicator

6. Blunt-end nail file

7. Clamp clothespins (about two dozen)

8. Shears

9. Pins

10. Thread

—Regular thread to match the cloth

—Heavy thread to sew the cover to the frame

11. Needles

12. Thimble

13. Ruler

**PROCEED Step by Step**

## ● PREPARE THE RINGS

1. File any rough spots.

2. Remove any rust with steel wool.

3. If a ring is bent reshape it gently and be sure it lies flat.

4. Wind the rings with the rayon tape, placing the tape against the ring on a slant and fastening the beginning with adhesive transparent tape. When the ring is covered cut the tape and sew the end securely.

## ● CUT THE LINING

1. Wipe the old shade cover to remove dust and oil that might stain the new lining.

2. Find the exact center of the old shade by folding it. Allow one end to reach beyond the other for the distance of the overlap. Mark the center on both the top and bottom edges.

3. Place the lining paper flat on a table wrong side up. Put the old shade on it right side up. Place a weight on one end, then mark around the pattern with a sharp pencil.

4. Mark the center on the lining.

5. At one end mark on the lining the exact length of the old shade. Then mark  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch beyond this point for seam allowance.

6. At the opposite end mark the exact length of the old shade.

7. Cut the lining.

## ● CUT THE COVER

1. Use the new lining as a pattern for the cover.

2. Lay the material for the cover on a table. Find the true bias by folding one corner so that one edge is on a crosswise thread and the other is on a lengthwise thread.

3. Mark the true bias with pins or thread. Unfold the cloth and place it wrong side up on the table.

4. Place the lining on the cloth so that its center is on the bias marking and there is at least one inch of cloth beyond all four edges of the lining.



5. Mark accurately around the top and bottom edges with pencil or pins.

6. At ends mark exact size of the old shade.

7. Cut the cover, allowing one inch on the top and bottom edges for seams. Allow  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch at each end for the seam.

#### ● FIT THE LINING

1. With the right side of the paper on the inside of the shade, lap the seam to the size of the old shade. Fasten with clothespins.

2. Set the paper lining on the table. Fit the upper ring just inside the top. Clamp the ring to the lining with clothespins, putting one clothespin at the seam, one directly opposite, and one at the center of each resulting half of the shade. Adjust the seam if necessary.

3. Fit the lining to the lower ring in the same way, using six to eight clothespins instead of four.

4. Sew the lining to the rings, lower ring first.

Begin about one inch from the seam. Fasten the knot under the wire.

Catch about  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch in on the paper. Use a blanket stitch.

Sew to within one inch of the seam lap, leaving the thread unfastened in order to complete the seams.

5. Measure the seam to exactly  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch lap, mark with a pencil line, trim, and complete the sewing on both the top and bottom rings.

6. Glue the seam, pressing the edges together with a pencil or some narrow flat object until the glue has set.

#### ● FIT THE COVER

1. Pin the seam line on the exact markings. Try on the shade with

the wrong side of the cover out. Tighten the seam line if necessary. Stitch.

2. Trim the seam line to  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch. Press the edges of the seam in the same direction and paint the edges with colorless nail polish to prevent fraying.

3. Place the cover on the shade right side out, matching the seam of the cover with that of the lining. Fasten it to the frame with clothespins.

4. Using the blunt end of a nail file tuck a little of the edge of the cover under the wire on the inside near the seam to find the amount needed to tuck in smoothly and stay in place. Trim to this width all the way around both the top and bottom of the shade.

5. Apply cement on the taped lower ring four to five inches at a time.

6. With a blunt nail file push the edge of the cloth cover down between the ring and the paper lining. Work carefully, tucking the cloth between stitches.

7. Repeat this process with the top ring.

#### ● APPLY THE TRIM

1. Choose a type of trim that has finished edges and can be put on the outside of the shade.

2. Apply nail polish to the cut end of the trim. Trim off the frayed edges when dry.

3. Apply cement to the cloth of the shade for a few inches at a time. Press the trimming in place and hold it there with a clothespin.

4. Join the ends neatly, putting on nail polish as at the beginning.

## To Make A Laced-On Paper Shade

For this kind of lampshade use parchment, water color, or drawing papers, or plastic if it is available. Water color or drawing paper will let more light through if they are treated with equal parts of boiled linseed oil and turpentine. Apply this mixture with a cloth pad to both sides of the paper. It is best to try this out on a sample before applying it to the shade.

### EQUIP YOURSELF with—

1. Lampshade rings or shape. If these are from an old lampshade, clean and polish them with steel wool. Give a coat of paint to any discolored frames that will not come bright with steel wool. Let the paint dry thoroughly.

2. Paper for shade

3. Plastic lacings (comes in many colors)

4. Sharp shears

5. Sharp pencil

6. Ruler

7. Punch

8. Clamp clothespins (6-8)

9. Household cement

### PROCEED Step by Step

- **MAKE A PATTERN FROM THE OLD SHADE** (where rings have been used).

1. Remove the binding which held the shade on the wire frame.

2. Mark the location of the seam on a rib.

3. Open the seam and note the seam allowance.

4. Be sure it is clean before using it as a pattern to prevent soiling the new shade material.

- **OR MAKE A NEW PATTERN** if a frame has been used and if the cover has been of a kind that cannot be removed in one piece.

1. Use heavy wrapping paper for a pattern.

2. Mark one rib with a tie of thread and use that rib as a starting point.

3. Lay the wire frame on its side on the paper so that it will make one complete revolution without running off the paper.

4. Starting with the marked rib, roll the frame slowly and mark outside the wires of the frame at both top and bottom edges.

5. Mark a line on each side of every rib as the frame is rolled.

6. Add  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch of seam allowance at each end of the pattern.

7. Cut the pattern, allowing  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch at top and bottom edges.

8. Lap and pin the seam.

9. Check the pattern on the frame, making sure the seam lies directly over the rib. Then re-mark with a colored pencil any lines that do not follow the rims. Cut on the corrected lines.

### MAKE THE SHADE

1. Place the pattern right side up on the right side of the shade material. Weight in place.

2. Trace around the pattern with a sharp pencil. Mark the seam allowance on each end with dots at both top and bottom. Make a mark on the seam allowance to indicate the right side of the shade.

3. Cut directly on the pencil lines.

4. Measure the distance around the rings and estimate the best distance between holes. These should be one-half to one inch apart.

5. Using the pattern, place dots on both top and bottom to check the proper placing of the holes.

✓ Put the first hole  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch from the end of the shade.

✓ Put all holes  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from the edge of the shade.

6. When the pattern checks, punch holes at the dotted points, using a small-diameter paper punch.

7. Place the pattern over the shade and mark holes on the shade with dots.

8. Punch all holes except the last three on each end of the shade top and bottom. These are left for adjustment of the seam.

9. Place the seam allowance over the marked rib of the frame.

10. Using clothespins, clip the top edge of the shade to the frame in four places.

11. Use a length of lacing approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times the distance to be

laced. Start at the center front of the shade, and lace to the seam on each side of the shade. Keep the lacing smooth and at an even slant.

12. Tie ends temporarily.

13. Repeat the process on the bottom edge of the shade.

14. Trim the seam if necessary, lap, and punch the remaining holes on the top and bottom of the shade.

15. Complete lacing the top and bottom and tie the lacing securely with a flat knot.

16. Cement the seam with household cement. Place a weight on the seam until it is dry.

# Your County Extension Agents

A familiar expression heard on Minnesota farms is "see your county agent." Every county in Minnesota has a county agricultural agent, and many counties also have home and 4-H Club agents.

Actually these county agents are part of a four-way partnership among the United States Department of Agriculture, the University of Minnesota, the county government, and farm people.

It is the job of the county Extension staff to bring to farmers and homemakers the latest information on farming and homemaking methods and to conduct 4-H Club work in the county.

Local committees, cooperating with the Director of the Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service, hire these agents and map out their programs.

Most county agents have their headquarters in the county courthouse. They are available to answer your questions and help solve your farming and homemaking problems.

This bulletin is one of many published by the University of Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service as an additional service to bring up-to-date information to your attention. These Extension Service bulletins are distributed through your local county agents or through the Bulletin Room, University Farm, St. Paul 1, Minnesota.

## UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL 1, MINNESOTA

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